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Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 10322 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
USUN NEW YORK JULY 7.

QUOTE UNCLAS GENEVA 10322

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: SECOND REGULAR 1978 ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: JULY 6 ECOSOC GENERAL DEBATE BEGAN WITH STATEMENTS BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE, TANZANIAN REP SALIM, FRG REP VON WECHMAR, NEW ZEALAND REP FARNON, AND ITALIAN REP BERNARDO. MORSE NOTED UNDP IS FINANCIALLY SOUND. SALIM SET WHAT MAY BE RECURRING THEME OF DEVELOPING STATES: NIEO MUST BE ESTABLISHED, BUT SOME INDUSTRIALIZED STATES ARE BLOCKING THE WAY. VON WECHMAR EXPOUNDED ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FOCUSED ON IMPORTANCE OF COW, QUESTIONING ITS WORKING METHODS. HE ALSO CALLED FOR DEVELOPED STATES WITH CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY AS ASSISTANCE DONORS. HE ALSO DEFENDED "BASIC
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NEEDS" APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT. FARNON STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE AS AN ARCHITECT OF CHANGE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL DIMENSION THAT ATTACHES TO ECONOMIC CHANGES. BERNARDO REITERATED NEED TO USE "INTEGRATED" APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT, EXAMINING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE ALSO PROPOSED

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CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE OPENED JULY 6 GENERAL DEBATE WITH ASSERTION THAT UNDP IS FULLY PREPARED TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE. UNDP HAS RECOVERED FROM ITS FISCAL CRISIS OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND IS IN A SOUND CASH POSITION.

3. TANZANIAN REP SALIM SET WHAT MAY PROVE THE COMMON THEME OF DEVELOPING STATES: THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A JUST NIEO AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME INDUSTRIALIZED STATES TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ENTERING THE NEW ERA. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS ECOSOC SESSION AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES ATTACHING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIEO. HE ALSO FOCUSED ON THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND SITUATION HAVE HAD ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MANY OF WHOM NO LONGER CAN PLAN FOR DEVELOP-MENT. HE NOTED THAT UN SUBSIDIARY BODIES HAVE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIEO (E.G., COMMODITY AGREEMENTS), BUT A FEW RICH INDUSTRIAL STATES LACK THE POLITICAL WILL TO TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS TO GO FORWARD WITH THE NIEO. THIS HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, OBSTRUCTED PROGRESS ON THE COMMON FUND. SALIM REMINDED THE DELEGATIONS THAT THE PROSPERITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON THE PROSPERITY OF ALL ITS INDIVIDUAL
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CONSTITUENTS. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE IS A REAL FORCE.

4. FRG REPRESENTATIVE VON WECHMAR SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9 ABOUT THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW). HE NOTED THAT GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTER-DEPENDENCE MUST BE A KEY ELEMENT AT ALL LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING. EEC MEMBER STATES REGARD THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG FROM THIS VANTAGE. THE WORLD HAS NOT YET RECOVERED ROMTHE ECONOMIC RECESSION OF THE EARLY '70S. THIS IMPEDES DEVELOPMENT. HE CALLED FOR NATIONS TO STRIVE TOWARD TWO OBJECTIVES, GROWTH AND STABILITY. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE READY AND WILLING TO ADJUST TO CHANGES IN THE PATTERN OF WORLD TRADE AND PRODUCTION. HE CASTIGATED PROTECTIONIST MEASURES -- DIRECT OR DISGUISED -- AS LEADING IN THE LONG RUN TO MISALLOCATIONS OF RESOURCES. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS TRADE WITH DEVELOPING STATES ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS THE EEC HAS IMPROVED ITS SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES.

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5. VON WECHMAR CALLED FOR DEVELOPED STATES WITH CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS ON ENLARGING THE VOLUME AND QUALITY OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COW, BUT QUESTIONED ITS WORKING METHODS. HE CALLED FOR CREATION OF A FORM OF REPORTING FOR COW WHICH, INSTEAD OF NEGOTIATING CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON EACH ITEM, WOULD ALLOW FOR A DETAILED BUT LESS STRINGENT SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES CLEARLY DESCRIBING WHERE CONVERGENCE OF OPINION COULD LEAD TO LATER AGREEMENTS AND WHERE DIVERGENCE INDICATES NEED FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION OF IDEAS OR PROPOSALS. VON WECHMAR ALSO DENIED THAT THE BASIC NEEDS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY. NOR IS THE APPLICATION OF THE APPROACH A CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC NEEDS APPROACH CERTAINLY REQUIRES STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, BUT THOSE WHO DEMAND INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURAL CHANGES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK FOR SUCH CHANGES IN THEIR OWN SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT. HE CONCLUDED WITH HOPEFUL COMMENTS ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN ECOSOC'S CAPACITY THAT RESTRUCTURING WILL CREATE.

6. NEW ZEALAND'S FARNON WAS CRITICAL OF THE LOW LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE. THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION FURTHER INHIBITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. NEW ZEALAND VIEWS TRADE AS THE CRUX OF INTERNATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE. NEW ZEALAND THEREFORE VIEWS THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE AS HAVING A KEY ROLE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HE NOTED THAT "THE FUTURE OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE AND ITS STRENGTH LIES (SIC) NOT IN THE PRODUCTION OF PAPER, BUT IN FULFILLING ITS ROLE AS AN ARCHITECT OF CHANGE. NO ONE COULD SAY THE DEBATES (OF LAST MAY'S OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING) WERE STERILE. THEY HAVE ALREADY BORNE FRUIT AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE OECD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH, AS THE COMMUNIQUE SHOWS, TOOK UP SEVERAL OF THE IDEAS AND APPROACHES EXPLORED BY THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE." FARNON STATED THAT DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION REQUIRE THAT THE PRINCIPLES UNDER-LYING A RECOGNITION OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY BE TRANSLATED INTO POLICY ACTIONS. POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THE IMPENDING ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND THE GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS NOW REACHING THEIR DECISIVE MOMENT WILL BE CRUCIAL. FARNON CLOSED HIS REMARKS WITH A STRONG REMINDER THAT PLANS FOR ECONOMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT CANNOT OVERLOOK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCOMITANTS THAT ATTACH TO ECONOMIC CHANGES.

7. ITALIAN REP BERNARDO ENGAGED IN A TOUR DE HORIZON OF THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, ESPECIALLY AS IT AFFECTS ITALY. HE REPEATED THE NEED TO USE THE "INTEGRATED" APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT, EXAMINING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TOGETHER WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. BERNARDO ALSO PROPOSED THAT CONSULTATIONS BEGIN IN THE UN SYSTEM ON ENERGY.

8. ECOSOC DEL IS POUCHING TEXTS OF FRG, NEW ZEALAND AND ITALAND ITALIAN SPEECHES TO DEPARTMENT, IO/DHP. VANDEN HEUVAL UNQUOTE VANCE

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